



Department of Transportation
Office of Inspector General
Highway and Transit Programs

National Transportation Safety Board Hearing January 2, 2008, Victoria, Texas Motor Coach Accident

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Bus Inspections at the Border

“...we identified physical space and capacity limitations that prevented FMCSA and the state motor carrier inspectors from conducting bus inspections during high-volume holiday periods.”

“...when we surveyed selected inspectors at border crossings, other bus inspection issues were brought to our attention, such as a lack of a ramp on which to conduct inspections.”

OIG Report Number MH-2007-062, “Follow-Up Audit On The Implementation of NAFTA’s Cross-Border Trucking Provisions,” August 6, 2007.



FMCSA Guidance on FMVSS Compliance

In August 2005, FMCSA issued guidance on determining compliance with motor vehicle safety standards by using vehicle identification numbers and promised further implementation guidance.

In August 2007, our report found that further guidance had not yet been provided and that it might be needed.

In September 2007, FMCSA issued guidance on the use of software for checking vehicle identification numbers of Mexico-domiciled carriers participating in its Cross-Border Demonstration Program.

FMCSA Policy Memorandums: “Enforcement of Motor Carriers’ Self-Certification of Compliance with the Motor Vehicle Safety Standards,” August 26, 2005; and “ASPEN Modifications for Implementation of the U.S.-Mexico Cross-Border Demonstration Program,” September 7, 2007.

FMCSA Research on FMVSS Compliance

The research assumed that—

any bus examined that did not have a FMVSS or CMVSS certification label affixed were “...Mexican-manufactured buses and therefore, were non-compliant because little information was available to determine compliance.”

In the study, 8 of 387 buses observed did not have a manufacturing label and were assumed non-compliant under this criteria.

OIG report MH-2008-081, “Report On The Scope And Methodology Of FMCSA’s Review Of Canadian/Mexican Compliance With Federal Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Standards,” September 24, 2008.